

## **NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

### **Multispecies (Groundfish) Committee**

#### **I. STATUS**

- A. Meetings: The Groundfish Oversight Committee met with the Advisory Panel and the Recreational Advisory Panel on November 6, 2006. A meeting summary will be distributed and a report will be provided by the Chair. This meeting was a workshop to develop recommended standards or principles to guide development of management proposals for Amendment 16 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP. The Council will review and consider adopting these recommendations so they can be published to facilitate comments during the scoping period.
- B. Biennial Adjustment/FW 42: FW 42 adjusts management measures as necessary to achieve Amendment 13 rebuilding targets. The final decision on this FW was made at the January Council meeting. The document was submitted to NMFS on March 29, 2006; after a few revisions requested by NMFS the document was resubmitted on April 26, 2006. The proposed rule was published July 26, 2006 and the comment period ended on August 25, 2006. NMFS published the final rule on October 23, 2006 and the regulations will become effective on November 22, 2006. One element of FW 42 was disapproved (a measure that would have allowed the Regional Administrator to raise trip limits to ensure at least 90 percent of a TAC would be caught).
- C. U.S./Canada Area TACs: As a result of Council direction to revisit TACs for EGB cod and GB yellowtail flounder, Trans-boundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC) held a conference call on October 24, 2006. The U.S. Co-Chair of the will deliver recommendations for the FY 2007 TACs for Eastern Georges Bank cod Georges Bank yellowtail flounder. If approved by the Council, these TACs will be forward to NMFS for implementation.
- D. Amendment 16 Scoping Period: The Amendment 16 scoping period will extend through December 31, 2006. Scoping hearings are planned for Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York. A copy of the draft scoping notice is attached. This document will be revised after the Council groundfish discussion.

#### **II. COUNCIL ACTION**

- A. Review and possible approval of Committee recommendations for standards and principles to be met by management alternatives that may be considered for the 2009 adjustment (Amendment 16).
- B. Review and possible approval of FY 2007 TACs for the U.S./Canada area (EGB cod and GB yellowtail flounder).

### **III. MOTIONS**

- A. None.

### **IV. INFORMATION**

- A. Groundfish Oversight Committee meeting summary, November 6, 2006 (to be distributed)
- B. Transboundary Management Guidance Committee 2006 Guidance document addendum (to be distributed)
- C. Draft Amendment 16 Scoping Document
- D. DAS use by category
- E. US/CA quota monitoring
- F. Correspondence